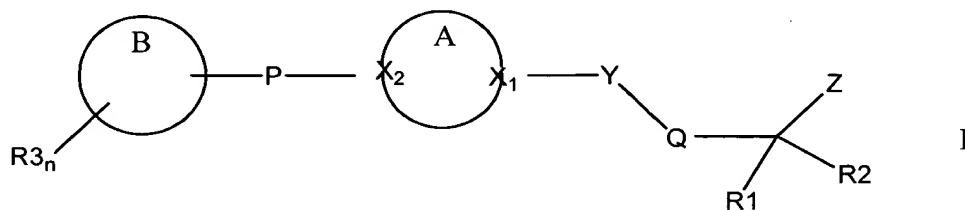


Amendments to the Claims:

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula I



C1 wherein ring B is a monocyclic or bicyclic alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl or heteroaralkyl ring comprising up to 12 ring atoms and containing one or more heteroatoms independently chosen from N, O, and S; alternatively ring B may be biphenyl represents a pyridyl ring, optionally; ring B may optionally be linked to ring A by a C1-4 alkyl or a C1-4 alkoxy chain linking the 2-position of ring B with a carbon atom alpha to X₂;

each R₃ is independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, NO₂, COOR wherein R is hydrogen or C1-6alkyl, CN, CF₃, C1-6 alkyl, -S-C1-6 alkyl, -SO-C1-6 alkyl, C1-6 alkoxy and up to C10 aryloxy, n is 1, 2, or 3;

P is -(CH₂)_n- wherein n = 0, 1, 2, or P is an alkene or alkyne chain of up to six carbon atoms; where X₂ is C, P may be -Het-, -(CH[R₆])_n-Het-(CH[R₆])_n-or-Het-(CH[R₆])_n-Het-, wherein Het is selected from -CO-, -S-, SO-, -SO₂-, -NR₆-, or -O- wherein n is 1 or 2, or P may be selected from -CO-N(R₆)-, -N(R₆)-CO-, -SO₂-N(R₆)- and -N(R₆)-SO₂-, and R₆ is hydrogen, C1-6 alkyl, up to C10 aralkyl or up to C9 heteroalkyl;

Ring A is a ~~5-7 membered aliphatic ring and may~~ represents a piperazinyl ring optionally be mono- or di- substituted by a ~~optionally substituted~~ C1-6 alkyl or C1-6 alkoxy, ~~each substituent being~~ wherein said C1-C6 alkyl or C1-6 alkoxy may independently selected from be further substituted with a halogen, C1-6 alkyl or an oxo group;

X₁ and X₂ are independently selected from N and C;

Y is selected from -SO₂- and -CO-;

Z is -CONHOH, Y is -CO- and Q is selected from -C(R₆)(R₇)-, -C(R₆)(R₇)-CH₂-, -N(R₆)-, and -N(R₆)-CH₂- wherein R₆ is as defined above, and solely in relation to Q as here

defined, R6 may also represent up to C10 aryl and up to C9 heteroaryl, and R7 is H, C1-6 alkyl, or together with R6 forms a carbocyclic or heterocyclic spiro 5, 6 or 7 membered ring, the latter containing at least one heteroatom selected from N, O, and S;

Z is -CONHOH, Y is -SO2- and Q is selected from -C(R6)(R7)-, and -C(R6)(R7)-CH2-;

or Z is -N(OH)CHO and Q is selected from -CH(R6)-, -CH(R6)-CH2-, and -N(R6)-CH2-;

R1 is H, or C1-6 alkyl;

Z is selected from -COOH, -CONHOH, -N(OH)CHO and N(OH)COR wherein R is C1-6alkyl, up to C10 aryl and up to C9 aralkyl

C1 And R2 is a ring having 5-7 ring atoms and comprising one or two ring heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulphur, the ring being optionally substituted by (i) Y-R9 wherein R9 is C1-6 alkyl, up to C10 aryl, up to C12 aralkyl or up to C12 heteroaryl(hetero)alkyl, or (ii) Y-T-R9 wherein Y and R9 are as previously defined and T is oxygen or N-R8 wherein R8 is hydrogen or C1-6 alkyl, the heteroatom(s) being independently selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulphur; R9 and R8 independently being optionally substituted by one or two groups selected from halogen, NO2, CN, CF3, C1-6 alkyl, -S-C1-6 alkyl, -SO-C1-6 alkyl, -SO2-C1-6 alkyl and C1-6 alkoxy;

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt or in vivo hydrolysable precursor thereof.

2. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 and wherein:

~~ring A is a 5-6 membered aliphatic ring and is optionally mono or di-substituted by optionally substituted C1-6 alkyl or C1-6 alkoxy, each substituent being independently selected from halogen, C1-6 alkyl or an oxo group;~~

R3 is hydrogen, halogen, NO2, CF3, C1-4 alkyl, and C1-4 alkoxy;

n is 1 or 2;

~~ring B is monocyclic or bicyclic cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl or heteroaryl having up to 10 ring atoms;~~

P is -(CH2)n- wherein n is 0 or 1, or P is -NH-CO-;

one or both of X2 and X1 = N;

Y is -SO2- or -CO-;

Q is $-\text{CH}(\text{R}_6)-$, $-\text{CH}(\text{R}_6)-\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}_6)-$, and $-\text{N}(\text{R}_6)-\text{CH}_2-$ wherein R_6 is hydrogen or C1-6 alkyl; when $\text{Q} = -\text{N}(\text{R}_6)-$ or $-\text{N}(\text{R}_6)-\text{CH}_2-$ then Y may also be $-\text{CS}-$, also Q may be linked to R_1 or R_2 to form a 5-7 alkyl or heteroalkyl ring;

R_1 = hydrogen, or C1-4 alkyl;

$\text{Z} = -\text{CONHOH}-$ or $-\text{N}(\text{OH})\text{CHO}$

and R_2 is a ring having 5-7 ring atoms and comprising one or two ring heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulphur, the ring being optionally substituted by (i) Y- R_9 wherein R_9 is C1-6 alkyl, up to C10 aryl, up to C12 aralkyl or up to C12 heteroaryl(hetero)alkyl, or (ii) Y-T- R_9 wherein Y and R_9 are as stated in claim 1 and T is oxygen or N- R_8 wherein R_8 is hydrogen or C1-6 alkyl, the heteroatom(s) being independently selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulphur; R_9 and R_8 independently being optionally substituted by one or two groups selected from halogen, NO_2 , CN, CF_3 , C1-6 alkyl, -S-C1-6 alkyl, -SO-C1-6 alkyl, - SO_2 -C1-6 alkyl and C1-6 alkoxy;

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt or in vivo hydrolysable precursor thereof.

3. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 and wherein:

R_3 is hydrogen, chlorine, fluorine, NO_2 , CF_3 , methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy;

ring B is phenyl, biphenyl, naphthyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl and pyridazinyl;

P is a direct bond;

both X_2 and X_1 are N;

Y is $-\text{SO}_2-$;

Q is $-\text{CH}_2-$;

R_2 is a ring having 5-7 ring atoms and comprising one or two ring heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulphur, the ring being optionally substituted by (i) Y- R_9 wherein Y is as stated in claim 1 and R_9 is C1-6 alkyl or alkylamino, up to C10 aryl or arylamino, up to C12 aralkyl or aralkylamino, up to C12 heteroaryl(hetero)alkyl, R_9 independently being optionally substituted by one or two groups selected from halogen, NO_2 , CN, CF_3 , C1-6 alkyl, -S-C1-6 alkyl, -SO-C1-6 alkyl, - SO_2 -C1-6 alkyl and C1-6 alkoxy;

R1 is hydrogen

Z is -N(OH)CHO;

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt or in vivo hydrolysable precursor thereof.

4. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 and wherein:

R3 is methoxy, fluorine or 4-fluoro;

ring A is unsubstituted;

~~ring B is phenyl, pyridyl, or 2-pyridyl;~~

R2 is optionally substituted 3-piperidinyl, 4-piperidinyl or N-substituted 4-piperidinyl,
or wherein the substituents are as stated in claim 3;

Or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt or in vivo hydrolysable precursor thereof.

5. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 and wherein R2 is 3- or 4-piperidinyl, optionally N-substituted by Y-R9 wherein Y is as stated in claim 1 and R9 is C1-4 alkyl or alkylamino, C6 aryl or arylamino, up to C10 aralkyl or aralkylamino or up to C10 heteroaryl(hetero)alkyl, R9 independently being optionally substituted by one or two groups selected from halogen, CF3, and C1-4 alkyl;

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt or in vivo hydrolysable precursor thereof.

6. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound of the formula (I) as claimed in claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or an in vivo hydrolysable ester and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Previously Presented) A method of treating a metalloproteinase mediated disease condition which comprises administering to a warm-blooded animal a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of the formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or in vivo hydrolysable ester thereof.

- 9-13. (Canceled).
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